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American School  
of Classical Studies  
in Rome

AN INSCRIPTION OF THE CHARIOTEER  
MENANDER <sup>1</sup>

THIS inscription (Fig. 1) is on a slab of white marble, 0.105 x 0.205 x 0.037 m., and was obtained by the Director of the American School in Rome in December, 1905, from a dealer who



FIGURE 1. — INSCRIPTION OF THE CHARIOTEER MENANDER.

stated that it was found near the new Corso di Porta Pinciana.<sup>2</sup> The two iron nails by which the stone was attached are still in

<sup>1</sup> For some time I have been preparing for publication a catalogue of the inscriptions at the American School in Rome. The stone, however, which is the subject of this paper, is of such exceptional interest as to warrant its immediate publication in a separate article.

<sup>2</sup> Outside the Aurelian Wall, between the Porta Pinciana and the Porta Salaria. On the ancient cemetery between the Via Salaria and Via Pinciana see Jordan-Hülse, *Topographie der Stadt Rom*, I, 3, p. 437. In the course of the extensive improvements and construction of new streets there during recent years, numerous *columbaria* and inscriptions have been found; see *Not. Scav.* 1904, p. 391; 1905, pp. 13, 19, 38, 71, 81, 100, 142, 200, 270, 364, 375, 407; 1906, pp. 96, 121, 143, 181, 211, 251, 299, 336, 357. Our School has a number of other inscriptions from that region.

place. The minium in the letters is fairly well preserved. The inscription — an admirable example of Roman calligraphy — is in the *scriptura actuariæ*. The first three lines are more monumental in style; in the last four, the hand is more documentary, especially toward the end. Note the forms of A, P, R. The height of the letters is: l. 1, 0.013–0.015 m.; l. 2, 0.009–0.012 m.; l. 3, 0.009 m.; ll. 4, 5, 0.007 m.; ll. 6, 7, 0.006–0.007 m.

*Druso Caesare* [co]s.

*C. Norbano Flacco*

*Menander C. Comini Macri*

*et C. Corneli Crispi bigarius uincit*

5 *ludis Mart(i) q(uos) f(ecerunt) co(nsule)s eq(uis) Basilisco Rustico,*

*ludis uictor(iae) Caesar(is) q(uos) f(ecerunt) P. Cornelius Scip(io),*

*Q. Pompeius Macer pr(aetores), eq(uis) Histro Corace.*

*Lines 1, 2:* the date is 15 A.D. This is the earliest dated inscription of a Roman charioteer known. *C.I.L.* VI, 10051, mentions games in A.D. 13 ff., but is itself somewhat later. *C.I.L.* VI, 10046, is probably of the time of Augustus; see below.

*Line 3: Menander:* the *agitor* Menander of *C.I.L.* VI, 10046, l. 8, is perhaps the same person. *C.I.L.* VI, 10075, is perhaps his tombstone; but the name is not uncommon.

*C. Comini Macri:* cf. Tac. *Ann.* 4, 31 (24 A.D.): . . . *C. Cominium, equitem Romanum, probrosi in se carminis conuictum, Caesar precibus fratris, qui senator erat, concessit.* He is not mentioned elsewhere; we learn his *cognomen* from this inscription.

*Line 4: C. Corneli Crispi:* he is not mentioned elsewhere, unless he is the Cornelius spoken of in Tac. *Ann.* 6, 29 (34 A.D.): *Verum ab Seruilio et Cornelio accusatoribus adulterium Liviæ, magorum sacra obiectabantur. . . . 30: Ac tamen accusatores, si facultas incideret, poenis adficiebantur, ut Seruilius Corneliusque perduto Scauro famosi, quia pecuniam a Vario Ligure omittendæ delationis ceperant, in insulas interdicto igni atque aqua demoti sunt.*

*bigarius:* on the *ludi circenses*, see *C.I.L.* I<sup>2</sup>, 1, *index vocab. s.v. ludus*; VI, 10044–10082, 33937–33958; *I.G.* XIV, 1474, 1503, 1604, 1628; Friedländer, *Sittengeschichte*<sup>6</sup>, (1889), II, pp. 325 ff. 498 ff.

*Line 5: ludis Mart(i):* May 12, see *C.I.L.* I<sup>2</sup>, 1, p. 318 (Mommsen).

*q(uos) f(ecerunt)*: so in l. 6. Cagnat, in his table of abbreviations in *Épigr. Lat.*<sup>3</sup>, does not record this use of Q.F.

*eq(uis)*: so in l. 7. Cagnat does not record this use of EQ.

*Line 6: ludis uictor(iae) Caesar(is)*; July 20–30, cf. *C.I.L.* I<sup>2</sup>, 1, p. 322. There were also presumably special games this year in connection with the celebration of military victories; cf. *Tac. Ann.* 1. 55: *Druso Caesare C. Norbano consulibus decernitur Germanico triumphus manente bello . . . 72: Decreta eo anno triumphalia insignia A. Caecinae, L. Apronio, C. Silio ob res cum Germanico gestas.*

*P. Cornelius Scipio*: it is hardly likely, although barely possible chronologically, that he is the person mentioned in Velleius, 2, 100, 5: *Quintiusque Crispinus, singularem nequitiam supercilio truci protegens, et Appius Claudius et Sempronius Gracchus ac Scipio alique minoris nominis utriusque ordinis uiri, quasi cuiuslibet uxore uiolata, poenas pendere, cum Caesaris filiam et Neronis uiolassent coniugem* (2 B.C.). *C.I.L.* VI, 16203 may refer to him.

*Line 7: Q. Pompeius Macer*: see *Prosopogr. Imp. Rom.* His *praenomen* occurs here only.

*Corace*: this name for a horse occurs also in Pausanias, 6, 10, 7; Pliny, *N.H.* 8, 65, 160; on an archaic vase from Caere (Cerveteri), *Annali dell' Inst.* 1848, p. 354; and on a lamp, *C.I.L.* XV, 6250 (CORACINIC).

There remains the question as to the purpose of this inscription, and the occasion of its erection. It is obviously not a burial inscription, and can hardly be an honorary inscription; its form is not what one would have expected on, *e.g.*, the base of a herm of the charioteer himself. It reads almost like a section from some *fasti*. One might perhaps suggest that it was set up, as a memorial tablet of Menander's successes in the year 15 A.D., in the training school or stables to which he was attached. On this question, however, the inscription itself sheds little light; and in the absence of accurate information concerning the circumstances of its finding—in the absence as well of other similar inscriptions<sup>1</sup>—a definite conclusion on the subject can hardly be reached.

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<sup>1</sup> *C.I.L.* VI, 10054, 10055, cannot be adduced as parallels.